

Message Text

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PASS COMMERCE FOR NOAA

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, FAO
SUBJECT: FAO FISHERY DIVISION

BEGIN SUMMARY: FAO FISHERIES ADG WATZINGER STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FISH IN WORLD FOOD POLICY AND NEED FOR GREATER RESOURCES IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO. HE INDICATED INCREASED FISHERY INVESTMENT BY IFI'S IS EXPECTED AND WOULD TAX FAO RESOURCES. WATZINGER REVIEWED SOME OF FISHERIES DIVISION PRIORITIES ON DEVELOPMENT, KRILL, AND REGIONAL FISHERY COMMISSIONS WHICH WOULD BE TOPIC OF JUNE FAO FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING. END SUMMARYM

1. WATZINGER POINTED OUT THAT FISH WERE ABOUT AS IMPORTANT AS MEAT IN FEEDING WORLD. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AS SOURCE OF PROTEIN AND IMPROVING NUTRITION. WATZINGER SAID THAT FISH PRODUCTION COULD DOUBLE BY 1990. THIS WOULD INVOLVE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT. HE CITED FIGURE OF \$30 BILLION IN DEVELOPING PRODUCTION IN AQUACULTURE, REDUCTION OF LOSSES, KRILL, AND INDIAN OCEAN DEEP-WATER SPECIES. FINALLY HE NOTED THAT FISH MADE UP ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF FOOD SUPPLY BUT ONLY HAS RECEIVED ABOUT
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ONG-HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND WAS DOWN TO FIVE PERCENT OF FAO REGULAR BUDGET.

2. WATZINGER HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE WORLD BANK WILL BE INCREASING ITS LOANS TO FISHERIES AND IFAD INTENDS TO DEVOTE 10-15 PERCENT OF ITS RESOURCES TO FISHERIES. SINCE THERE IS LIMITED EXPERTISE TO PREPARE PROJECTS, FAO SHOULD BE VERY MCUH

INVOLVED. IT ALREADY HAS EXCELLENT CONTACTS WITH REGIONAL BANKS AND FISHERY INDUSTRY. SINCE FISHERIES EXPERTS ARE NOT VERY NUMEROUS, WATZINGER EMPHASIZED THAT MOST CONTACTS WERE DIRECT AND DID NOT FLOW THROUGH FAO INVESTMENT CENTER OR INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

3. WATZINGER GAVE ALL OF FISHERIES PROGRAM HIGH PRIORITY BUT THEN SENGLED OUT DEVELOPMENT WORK TO INCREASE PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY IN LDC'S, AS MOST IMPORTANT. CANADA AND NORWAY HAVE PRESSED FIRST STAGE OF IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING UNDER-EXPLOITED RESOURCES. WATZINGER POINTED TO FAO'S STUDY ON SOUTH ATLANTIC KRILL AS EARLY RESULTS OF THIS WORK. THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER FAO'S FOLLOW-UPM

4. ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA OF FAO WORK HAS BEEN IN SETTING UP REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. THESE HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL IN GETTING COUNTRIES ABUTTING LOGICAL FISHING AREAS TO CONSULT TOGETHER TOWARD RATIONAL POLICIES AND FISH PRODUCTION INVESTMENT. HOWEVER, FUTURE FAO RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL FISHERY COMMISSIONS WILL BE ANOTHER TOPIC FOR FISHERIES COMMITTEE.

5. WATZINGER SAID FISHERIES COMMITTEE WOULD NOW MEET FOR ONLY FIVE DAYS WITH A FOUR-TOPIC AGENDA SUPPORTED BY PAPERS WITH POLICY ALTERNATIVES. COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN ROME JUNE 12-16, 1978.

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6. WATZINGER WAS COMPLIMENTARY OF CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S ON FISHERY MATTERS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA. HE ALSO STRESSED HIS DIVISION'S CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE USSR DESPITE THEIR NOT BEING MEMBERS OF THE FAO. WATZINGER SAID AT A RECENT VISIT OF HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN FISHERY AID OFFICE, THE USSR HAD EVEN TALKED OF RUBLE FINANCING OF FAO FISHERY PROJECTS. GARDNER

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